



NEWS RELEASE



USAID
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The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Commemorates 50 Years of Partnership with the Philippines

This year, USAID commemorates five decades of development partnership with the Philippines. To recognize the major accomplishments of this partnership and to honor the women beneficiaries of the USAID sponsored programs, U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr. will host a reception on International Women's Day, March 8. The honorees will include those from the Philippine government, private sector, civil society, academe, and other sectors.

According to USAID Philippines Director Gloria Steele, USAID and its partner organizations will host commemorative activities and events throughout the year, with a grand culminating Fiesta in November at the Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

On November 3, 1961, the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act was signed into law by President Kennedy, creating USAID. Since that time, USAID has been the principal U.S. Government agency providing development assistance to countries around the world. USAID assistance in the Philippines has helped communities all over the country to reduce maternal and child mortality, promote stronger governance and rule of law, develop rural infrastructure, increase access to financial services, recover from disasters, improve access to health care and education, promote women and child rights, and increase agricultural productivity, among other achievements.

"The United States and the Philippines share a partnership based on respect, shared values, and a desire for peace, stability, prosperity, and opportunity, and we are proud of our partnership with the Philippine people," said Ambassador Thomas. "Through the USAID programs, we are helping to achieve the Philippines' Millennium Development Goals and the Magna Carta for Women, making a difference in the lives of millions of Filipino men and women," he added.

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